

Views from VanDeWalle

Brandy VanDeWalle, Extension Educator in Fillmore/Clay Counties

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Grain Entrapment – SILQ, a movie

As we approach harvest season, farmers and rural Nebraskans should keep agricultural safety in mind. Agriculture after all, continues to be the state's most dangerous occupation. Since the 1970's, Purdue University's Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department has been specifically documenting and investigating incidents involving grain storage and handling facilities at both commercial and on-farm locations.

In 2020, there were a total of 64 cases documented, including 35 grain entrapments, 7 falls into or from grain storage structures, 4 asphyxiations due to deficient oxygen levels or toxic environments, and 12 equipment entanglements (such as those involving in-floor and sweep augers) that occurred while working inside or around agricultural confined spaces. In 2020, six cases (15.4%) involved a child or youth under the age of 21. (Purdue Agricultural Confined Space Incident Database -PACSID, 2021). Nebraska is certainly not immune to this. During 2020, the states with the most documented confined space cases of all types, including fatal and non-fatal, were Illinois (17), Minnesota (7), North Dakota (7), and Nebraska (5).

September 20-24, 2021 is National Farm Safety and Health Week. To kick-off this week, I'm excited to announce that Nebraska Extension in Fillmore County and, Nebraska AgrAbility and Easterseals Nebraska are proud to announce sponsorship of a major motion picture, titled, SILQ available to your family. This movie is inspired by true events, in a rural U.S. town. Disaster strikes when a teenage becomes the victim of a grain entrapment accident. Family, neighbors and first responders must put aside their differences to rescue him from drowning in the 50-foot-tall silo where corn quickly turns to quicksand. SILQ shows how dangerous modern farming can be, while also highlighting the ways in which communities' band together to look after on another.

Nebraska Extension in Fillmore County and, Nebraska AgrAbility and Easterseals Nebraska will be making the movie link available to the public from at participating local ag businesses during Nat'l Farm Safety & Health Week. For more questions, contact the Fillmore County Extension Office at (402) 759-3712. For services and supports to farmers and ranchers who have experienced serious accident or injury, or developed significant health conditions that impact farm/ranch operations, contact Nebraska AgrAbility at 402-984-3819 or visit the website at <https://agrability.unl.edu/>.

A public viewing of the movie is planned for November; details to follow. To view the Trailer, go to <https://www.silothefilm.com/>.



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